National Projects for Development of Mass use items

1477. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a panel for initiating national projects for development of mass use items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No panel has been set up for initiating national projects for development of mass use items in the area of Electronics;

(b) Does not arise.

Medicines Available in the Country

1478. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40,000 brands of medicines are available in India whereas according to WHO only 258 brands are enough;

(b) whether this large number of brands is responsible for high cost of medicines; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce these and bring them to the number recommended by WHO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) As State Drugs Controllers are the Licensing Authorities, the Central Government do not have exact number of branded products moving in the market.

The number of branded product do not represent the same number of active drugs available, since one active drug may be marketed in different brand names by different licensed manufacturers. W.H.O. does not claim that the restricted number of drugs list would be enough to treat all ailments.

(b) Large number of brands available for the same drug are not responsible for high cost of medicine.

(c) Government has constituted an expert committee to examine formulations moving in the market from the angel of safety, efficacy and rationality. This is a continuous process. As a result of this exercise, Government has so far prohibited manufacturers and sale of 27 drugs formulations/categories of drugs which will include hundreds of branded products. There is, however, no plan to reduce number of active drugs which are considered safe, effective and useful in the national context.

List of Banned Drugs

1479. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a list of banned drugs in India, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; the steps Government propose to take to prepare the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Drugs Consultative Committee, which is a statutory Committee under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act consisting of representatives of the Central Government and State Governments, has appointed a Sub-Committee to monitor formulations of drugs, including combinations, marketed in the country from the angle of safety/efficacy/rationality.